

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Church as Body”

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Sermon Series Title: “The Church of God”

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

Passage Setting: The theology of the city has been discussed and debated throughout the ages. However, we see that there is dignity and worth in the city, especially because the church is and will be a city in our eternal future. Our citizenship defines our identity, our hope, and our mission today.

Summary: As we’ve looked at Church as Building and City, we are going to look at the Church as Body. This is a familiar illustration for the church, but it’s a very appropriate one. We are united in Christ, diverse in our gifts, and in need of one another. We are able to do this in the grace and love of Christ who gave Himself for us.

Central Truth: “The church is the body of Christ through the grace and love of Christ.”

Sermon Points:

1. The Beauty of the Body
2. The Unity of the Body
3. The Diversity of the Body
4. The Necessity of the Body
5. The Ability for the Body

Last week, we talked about the Church as City. This week, we’re visiting a familiar illustration and looking at the Church as Body.

1. What does it mean for you that the Bible uses the image of a body to describe the church?

(Answers will vary.)

The Bible calls us a building and a city. We are an organization. There should be set

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programs, functions, departments, structure, and organization.

However, we are not just a structured organization. We are an organism. We are living, moving, and breathing. Church does not just happen on Sundays in this building. Church happens every moment of everyday of our lives. We are the church. Our life and growth are both organic.

The image of the body also reminds us that we are one, and we need one another.)

2. What are some obstacles for a church's unity in Christ? What are some ways we can improve our unity in Christ as an EM?

(Answers will vary.

The obvious obstacles are hatred, pride, envy, dissent, resentment, and lack of forgiveness, grace, and love. The obstacles that aren't as clear are the ways we are united, outside of Christ. We may be united in our ethnicity, politics, hobbies, passions, etc. Those things aren't sinful in themselves, but when they are the main source of identity, then they become our main source of unity.

We can love one another. We appreciate each other. We get to know and serve one another. We encourage/admonish one another in grace and truth. We talk about our faith and serve His kingdom together.)

3. How can we better appreciate the diversity in our community?

(Answers will vary.

Know one another and value each other. Give thanks for one another. Encourage one another in their unique giftedness. We all have unique stories, faiths, personalities, gifts, talents, abilities, and heart. We get to know and appreciate the diversity. We cultivate the diversity.)

4. In every church, there are people who feel disconnected and unwanted. What are some practical ways to honor and care for all our members?

(Answers will vary.

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Interest, Invitation, Inclusion, Connection, Care, Thoughtfulness, Time)

Final Thoughts: *There is wonder in the body of Christ, called the church. It is an illustration that describes the church so well in our beauty, unity, diversity, and necessity. This is all possible because of Christ, who unites us in Him and diversifies us with our gifts. He is the One who considered and cared for us. He saw us as indispensable though we were such great sinners, that He died to include us. Now, by His grace, let us be the body of Christ and love one another in Him.*